

THE INDICTMENT ORTHOEPIC.

But there is another reason why Revision of Sp. shud be pusht as fast as is expedient: it wil so greatly help our yung peopl to aquire a clear and a decided and therefore elegant pronunciation. Slovenly pronunciation is a crying sin of the American peopl. Consonants ar slurd, chipt or swallowd; vowels ar mixt and confused; words ar understood almost holly by context: a singl word ca rarely be understood without being repeated several times. Most peopl hav some idea of words if they can think of them as they appear in their ritn or printed forms, but of the parts of spoken words, that is their elementary sounds, they hav litt more conception than they hav of the atoms in a chemical combination. What we need is tha evry one shal recognize elementary sounds as separat identitis capabl of being utrd by themselves with eas and certanty. That is a result obtaind by the thoro training which children receive while lerning to read fonetic print; and this a-reciation of elementary sounds wud be perpetuated wer the print which they afterward habitualy red of a fonetic character. Then too the best pronunciation being habitualy presented to the eye correct pronunciation wud be the rule of ordinary speech. Like the ancient Athenian fishwom-en who wer said to hav spoken Greek with remarkabl purity, our lower classes wud speak with an acuray and grace which is now staind by the most careful orators only.—Mrs E. B. BUENZ [of New York, at meeting of the Normal School, Toronto, 17th Aug., 1883.]

LITERATURE.

PHRASES DES TOUS LES JOURS par Felix Franke. 16mo, 60 p. Henninger Bro's. Heilbronn, 1886. Price 80 pf. [25 cents]

This litt book by the late lamented Franke of Sorau is a companion to that of Passy, treating as it does in like way thoz frases which ar of evry day occurrence in French conversation *vis-a-vis* with its proper pronunciation. We dont recollect any similar work since that of the late Steven P. Andrews 30 years ago—a work for lerning French by Ollendorff's plan with the orthoepy oposit. Its use and its valyu ar apparent. With neither this nor Passy's is it explicitly stated whether it is colloquial or deliberat (Walker's *oratoric*) pronunciation that is givn. Apparently the distinction is not recognized. It is the part of Orthograpy to aproximate deliberat Orthoepy from which colloquial O. wil folo as necessary consequence. In Franke's book continuant *l* and *r* ar signified by italic *l* or *r*, ordinary *l* and *r* denoting pure consonants.

LE FRANCOIS PARLÉ: Morceaux Choisis a l'usage des étrangers, avec la Prononciation figuree, par Paul Passy. Heilbronn, Henninger freres, 1886, pp. xi and 115 16mo. Price, M 1.80 (say 50 cents.)

This treatis by the professor of Modern Languages in the Paris Normal School fils a need— that of a scolarly representation

of spoken French by a competent nativ. It consists of selections from classic French proz and vers givn on lft hand pages, the alternat pages giving the pronunciation. Our Ontario Educationl Department shud authorize its use in our High Schools where nativ French tutors ar almost never found. This wud correct and suplement present necessarily defectiv pronunciation therein taut. The author states that he givs the orthoepy usual in northern (or Parisian?) France. For the sound symbols used the equivalents ar givn in English, Holandish, German, Icelandic, Swedish and Danish; the foloing from preface is true and appropriate and givs the key note of the book:

[Translation] What we call pronunciation is the language itself of which the ritn form is only the quite conventional and comonly very imperfect representation. We no that to understand a language we must first make a rational study of the sounds which compoz it, smething which is almost imesible without exact representation of these sounds.

L'ANGLAIS PARLÉ; ou Methode Pratique pour apprendre a Parler, a Comprendre et a Lire en Anglais sans Maître. par Paul Passy. 24mo, pp. 154. London, F. Pitman, 20 Paternoster Row.

This litt work is for Frenchmen to aquire English. It is evidence of the spread of *Sound* methods of aquirng living tungs. Pronunciation is givn in a 12 vowel alphabet—les than 12 is never satisfactory. A statement on p. 2 deserves chalenging. It is to effect that vowels in *eel*, *fool* and *ball* difer in quantity only from thoz in *ill*, *full* and *ox*. To our ear, the 12 standard vowels ar all diferent in quality: they ar quite as distinct as the twelv individuals that compoz a jury—ther ar relationships between them, but each has his own individuality all the same. The litt book is bound separatly in two parts. They may be had of the publisher or at Librairie Shakspear, 75 Ruede Champs-Elysees, Paris, at a frans each, or both postpaid for say 50 cents.

ELEMENTE DER PHONETIK und Orthoepie des Deutschen, Englischen und Franzosischen, von Wilhelm Viëtor. 8vo, 271 pages, Henninger Brothers, Heilbronn, Prussia. Price, M 4.80 (say, \$1.25.)

This book by the lerned professor of filology at Marburg University is scolarly, acurat, painstaking and conscientius. Its first part describes the organs of speech, then the sounds in French, German and English ar described and compared, lastly how speech-sounds ar combined is stated and exampls givn in the three tungs by printing exampls in a much-market-let